

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 DODE-00  
NSC-05 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02  
OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /090 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR:BMENOLD:SHC  
APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:LSLOSS  
PM:LBRECKON  
C:JMONTGOMERY S/S-RGAMBLE  
S/P:PKAPLAN  
EUR:JHAWES  
INR:RBARAZ  
OSD:JMORRISON NSC:SHA  
JCS:WFORRELL  
ACDA:MHUMPHREYS

-----080511Z 111287 /12

P R 080112Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 004241

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT:MBFR: WORKING GROUP STUDY ON EXCEPTIONS REQUIRE-  
MENTS FOR STRENGTH FLUCTUATIONS

REFS: A. NATO 6970 (DTG 221454Z DEC 76), B. STATE 293332  
(DTG 012338Z DEC 76)

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1. US BELIEVES FRG FIGURE OF 150,000 FOR AIRLIFT CAPACITY  
IS TOO HIGH. ANALYSIS OF FALL 1976 ROTATION IS STILL UNDER-  
WAY AND WE NOW BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO INCLUDE A  
SPECIFIC FIGURE. BEGIN FYI: THERE ALSO IS DISAGREEMENT  
WITHIN US COMMUNITY ON SIZE OF SPRING 1976 ROTATION. END FYI  
THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT A MORE GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF

THE ROTATION PROCESS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

2. WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE, WHICH IS BASED ON AN EARLIER VERSION (REFTEL B) OF PARA 24: "THE USSR ROTATES 6,000 AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TWICE ANNUALLY (MAY AND NOVEMBER) OVER A PERIOD OF SOME 45 TO 60 DAYS. (THE LAST TWO ROTATIONS WERE CONDUCTED MAINLY BY AIRLIFT, AND THE AIRLIFT PORTION OF THE ROTATIONS WAS COMPLETED IN 2 TO 3 WEEKS.) ANY NET INCREASE IN USSR STRENGTH IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS IS LIKELY TO BE LOW, DUE TO THE USSR PRACTICE OF

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REPATRIATING AN INCUMBENT SOLDIER SHORTLY AFTER HIS REPLACEMENT ARRIVES, PROBABLY WITHIN 24 HOURS. HOWEVER, SPECIALISTS OVERLAP FOR LONGER PERIODS. THE NUMBER IN THAT CATEGORY CANNOT BE SPECIFIED BUT MIGHT BE SUBSTANTIAL AND IS INCREASING. SOME CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT THE TEMPORARY OVERSTRENGTH MAY RISE ABOVE THE 6,000-MAN LIMIT DISCUSSED IN PARA 28."

3. IF LANGUAGE IN PARA 2 ABOVE PROVES UNACCEPTABLE IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION IN WORKING GROUP, WE CAN ACCEPT COMPROMISE LANGUAGE THAT SAYS THE USSR ROTATES AT LEAST 110,000 GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL AND A MINIMUM OF 7,000 AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TWICE ANNUALLY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BMENOLD:SHC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 NATO BRUSSELS 6970, 77 STATE 293332  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PARM, XG, US, NATO, MBFR  
**To:** NATO BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009